bio-technology, for development of new and improved varieties of plants to achieve higher yields, greater nutrition value, shorter crop period, higher food security, increased exports, etc.

Exploitation of Marine Wealth

2520. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many countries are exploiting the marine products from the ocean;

(b) if so, whether Government have any scheme or proposal to exploit marine wealth to feed the country's millions;

(c) if so, whether any budgetary provision has been made for 2002-2003; and

(d) what are the schemes/products Government propose to Extract?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government have been implementing several Central/Centrally Sponsored Schemes in the coastal States such as Development of Marine Fisheries, Infrastructure and Post Harvest Operations, National Welfare of Fishermen and Coastal Aquaculture.

(c) The budgetary provision of Rs. 16.00 crores have been made for the year 2002-2003 for implementing these schemes.

(d) The schemes are aimed at increasing marine fish production and to provide better post harvest care to achieve higher per capita availability of fish.

Pill to prevent the effects of Nuclear Radiation

2521. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that medical scientists have been able to invent a pill, to prevent the effects of nuclear radiation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the anti-nuclear radiation character of the medicine has been adequately and satisfactory tested;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the medicine is proposed to be circulated for extensive use in the event of a nuclear war in the South Asian Region, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (e) The Drugs Controller General (India), who gives the marketing authorization for any drug, has no information regarding invention of a pill to prevent the effects of Nuclear Radiation.

Rehabilitation of Bhopal gas victims by DOW

2522. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that US-based DOW Chemical Company, owner of Union Carbides Ltd., Bhopal, has agreed to implement a concrete programme, for long term relief and rehabilitation of the gas disaster victims in Bhopal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of people who are still waiting for relief; and

(d) the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The Central Government in the Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals has not received any proposal from M/s DOW Chemical Company in the matter.

(b) In view of reply to (a) above, question does not arise.

(c) and (d) According to information received from the office of the Welfare Commissioner, 171 original cases, 1030 revision petitions, 13,923 appeals and 1915 restored applications are pending for compensation as on 1.7.2002. The Government is monitoring these cases on monthly basis for their expeditious disposal.